

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for enabling management of contacts, the method comprising:
  - maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;
  - enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;
  - in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member;
  - representing the group of contacts with a specific ~~identifier~~; identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities;
  - enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send ~~communications~~ a communication to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts. represented;
  - receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the member of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts;
  - receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;
  - in response to receiving the indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts, and  
determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; and  
sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the member to send a copy of the group of contacts to a recipient.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
receiving a request from the member or the recipient to modify the group; and  
updating copies of the group held by the member and the recipient to reflect the requested change.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising notifying the member and the recipient of the requested change to the group.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communications applications include an communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the

communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use e-mail application and or at least one application communication modality other than [[an]] e-mail application. to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting e-mail or the at least one communication modality other than email to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communications applications include an communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use instant messaging application and or at least one application communication modality other than [[an]] instant messaging application. to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting instant messaging or the at least one communication modality other than instant messaging to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communications applications include a communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use digital image sharing application and or at least one application communication modality other than [[a]] digital image sharing application. to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting digital image sharing or the at least one communication modality other than digital image sharing to send the communication and

specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different ~~communications applications include~~ communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use an alerting ~~application~~ modality that sends alerts and reminders to users [[and]] or at least one ~~application~~ communication modality other than [[an]] the alerting ~~application that sends alerts and reminders to users.~~ modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the alerting modality or the at least one communication modality other than the alerting modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different ~~communications applications include an application~~ communication modalities to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use a modality for sharing and exchanging contact information [[and]] or at least one ~~application~~ communication modality other than an ~~application~~ the modality for sharing and exchanging contact ~~information.~~ information to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send the communication and

specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 10 wherein enabling the member to use a modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one communication modality other than the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing applications. modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing applications include modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, an electronic journal application and modality, or at least one application modality other than [[an]] the electronic journal application. modality by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the electronic journal modality, or the at least one modality other than the electronic

journal modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing applications include modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, an e-mail filtering application and modality, or at least one application modality other than [[an]] the e-mail filtering application- modality by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the e-mail filtering application, or the at least one modality other than the e-mail filtering application to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or at least one other sharing applications include an application modality to send a communication to the group of contacts by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information or the at least one other sharing modality to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented includes enabling the member to use the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, a modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account and account, or at least one application modality other than an application the modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account- account by selecting the modality for sharing and exchanging contact information, the modality that enables the specification of parental controls

over a child account, or the at least one modality other than the modality that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented.

15-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[15]] 1 wherein ~~enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises: receiving an indication of a selected application to use to send a communication to the group of contacts; determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member~~ includes:

recognizing that [[a]] an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent using the particular communication modality selected by the member is not known for a particular contact within the group of contacts is identified by a single identifier that is inoperable for addressing a message to be sent using the selected application; contacts; and

prompting the member for a different single an appropriate identifier for to use to address communications to be sent to the particular contact that may be used to address the message to be sent using the particular communication modality selected application; and replacing the single identifier with the different single identifier in the group of contacts. by the member.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[15]] 1 wherein ~~enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that~~

~~are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises: receiving an indication of a selected application to use to send a communication to the group of contacts; determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member~~  
includes:

recognizing that [[a]] an appropriate identifier to use to address communications to be sent using the particular communication modality selected by the member is not known for a particular contact within the group of contacts is identified by a single identifier that is inoperable for addressing a message to be sent using the selected application; contacts; and

omitting the contact from the group of contacts for the purpose of sending communications the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected application; by the member.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ wherein:

enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts ~~comprises:~~ includes enabling the member to use a graphical user interface to specify contacts from the collection of contacts to be included in the group of contacts; and

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier includes:

enabling the member to provide a name for the group of contacts; contacts, and

representing the group of contacts with the name provided by the member for the group of contacts.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling a member to define a group contacts from among the collection of contacts comprises:

recognizing a set of contacts from the collection of contacts as repeated recipients of communications sent by the member; and



enabling the member to define a group containing the set of contacts without actively specifying the set of contacts.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

storing communications sent by the member during a period of time;  
examining the communications sent by the member during the period of time; and  
identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications by the member during the period of time.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein storing and examining communications sent by the member during a period of time comprises storing and examining communications sent by the member using multiple different applications.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

storing a predetermined number of communications sent by the member;  
examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member; and  
identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications out of the predetermined number of communications by the member.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 wherein storing and examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member comprises storing and examining communications sent by the [[user]] member using multiple different applications.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein ~~enabling the member to define a group containing the set of contacts comprises~~ representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier includes:

enabling the member to provide a name for the ~~recognized set~~ group of contacts;  
contacts; and

representing the group of contacts with the name provided by the member for the group of contacts.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein permissions and preferences of all contacts in the group are the same.

29. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising a tangible computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;  
enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;  
in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member;

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier; identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities; [[and]]

enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send communications a communication to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts. represented;

receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the member of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts;

receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

in response to receiving the indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:

determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts, and

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; and

sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member.

30. (Currently amended) A system for enabling management of contacts comprising:
- means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;
  - means for enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;
  - means for creating the group of contacts defined by the member in response to the member defining the group of contacts;
  - means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier; identifier that may be selected by the member to enable communications to be sent by the member to the group of contacts using multiple different communication modalities; [[and]]

means for enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send ~~communications~~ a communication to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts; represented;

means for receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, of a particular communication modality to be leveraged in sending a particular communication to the group of contacts;

means for receiving an indication that the member has specified that the particular communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented;

means for determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the particular communication modality that the member has selected to be leveraged in sending the particular communication to the group of contacts;

means for determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member; and

means for sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

enabling the member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send ~~communications~~ a communication to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication

modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises includes enabling the member to send ~~communications~~ a communication to the group of contacts ~~using any one of multiple different applications by using~~ selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
enabling another member to use any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send communications a communication to the group of contacts ~~using any one of the multiple different applications by using~~ selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts; represented;

~~receiving, from the member, a first communication sent using a first application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented;~~

~~in response to receiving the first communication sent using the first application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented, delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the first application;~~

receiving an indication of a selection, from among the multiple different communication modalities, by the other member of a different communication modality to use to send a different communication to the group of contacts;

~~receiving, from receiving an indication that the other member, a second member has specified that the different communication be sent using a second application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented; and~~

~~in response to receiving the second communication sent using the second application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented, delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the second application.~~

~~in response to receiving the indication that the other member has specified that the different communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented:~~

~~determining, from among the multiple different communication modalities, the different communication modality that the other member has selected to use to send the different communication to the group of contacts, and~~

~~determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member; and sending the different communication to the group of contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member by sending the different communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the different communication modality selected by the other member.~~

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[34]] 33 wherein the first particular communication application comprises a modality is e-mail application and the second different communication application comprises a modality is instant messaging application such that:

~~receiving a first communication sent using a first communication application comprises receiving a first communication sent using the e-mail application;~~

~~delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the first communication application comprises delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the e-mail application;~~

~~receiving a second communication sent using a second communication application that is a different type of communication application than the first communication application comprises receiving a second communication sent using an instant messaging application; and~~

~~delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the second communication application that is of a different type than the first communication application comprises delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the instant messaging application.~~

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the particular communication modality selected by the member includes determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using e-mail;

sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using the communication modality selected by the member by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the communication modality selected by the member includes sending the particular communication to the group of contacts using e-mail by sending the particular communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using e-mail;

determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member includes determining, for individual contacts within the group of contacts, appropriate identifiers to use to address communications to be sent to the individual contacts using instant messaging; and

sending the different communication to the group of contacts using the different communication modality selected by the other member by sending the different communication

to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using the different communication modality selected by the other member includes sending the different communication to the group of contacts using instant messaging by sending the different communication to the identifiers for the individual contacts determined to be appropriate when using instant messaging.

36. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein:

the instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

the instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send communications a communication to the group of contacts ~~using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication~~ and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group is represented ~~to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprise include~~ instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to send ~~communications a communication~~ to the group of contacts ~~using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to~~ the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the instructions that when executed by a machine result in maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.

38. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30 wherein:



the means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises means for representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

the means for enabling the member to use any one of multiple different communication modalities to send ~~communications~~ a communication to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the specific identifier by which the group of contacts is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises includes means for enabling the member to send ~~communications~~ a communication to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using selecting any one of the multiple different communication modalities to send the communication and specifying that the communication be sent to the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises means for creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.